

And on top of it all, LeRoy recently found time to make a 150-mile bicycle trip with his wife Carolyn and 10 other family members in support of MS research.

LeRoy is a man of loyalty, conviction, and fortitude. He commands great respect and great affection. He has an enviable capacity for warmth and kindness and is driven by his value for hard work. He stands firm in what he believes and yet finds common ground where there are differences, using a welcoming approach and a friendly smile to bring people together. And if all else fails, he'll make you laugh, mostly at his own expense, by poking fun at himself.

Today, at this bittersweet moment, it is with gratitude and admiration that I stand before you to honor LeRoy's longstanding contributions to the people of Minnesota through his years of service as commissioner of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BELFIELD, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. From July 11 to July 13, the residents of Belfield, ND, will celebrate their community's history and founding.

Belfield is situated along the banks of the Heart River in western North Dakota. As the westward expansion of the Northern Pacific Railroad progressed, settlers established this community and first identified it as Fort Houston. Belfield is said to have later adopted its current name after Belle Field, the daughter of a railroad engineer.

Belfield offers visitors and residents fresh air and beautiful scenery. From Custer's Trail and Initial Rock, to Belfield Dam and the Maah Daah Hey Trail, Belfield has a wealth of outdoor recreational activities. This gateway to the west is also birthplace of North Dakota Supreme Court Judge Herbert L. Meschke.

To celebrate its 125th anniversary, Belfield is organizing a weekend filled with events such as a parade, class reunions, a demolition derby, a steak fry, historical photo and pottery displays, and games for all ages. Belfield will also be host to the Black Daggers, a U.S. Army Special Operations Command Parachute Demonstration Team. The team will be performing parachute jumps throughout the weekend at various locations. It will no doubt add a breathtaking element to this celebration.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Belfield, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Belfield and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is

places such as Belfield that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Belfield has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MENOKEN, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. On June 21, the residents of Menoken gathered to celebrate their community and its historic founding.

Menoken is located in Burleigh County, just a few miles from the State capital. Although its population is small, Menoken holds an important place in our State's history. As the first tracks of the Northern Pacific Railroad were being laid across North Dakota, the Seventeenth Siding was marked; later to be known as what is now Menoken. Upon the completion of the railroad, settlers from Maine occupied the territory and named the town Blaine, after Maine Senator James G. Blaine. Once more the town's name was changed to Clark, and then finally secured as Menoken.

The citizens of Menoken take great pride in their community enriched with history. The town is home to the Menoken Indian Village, which is a preserved prehistoric earthlodge village that dates back to the early 13th century A.D. In addition, the battle-grounds of General Sibley's campaign of 1863 are located near Menoken. These two landmarks are among many of the town's sacred keepsakes that resemble the very essence of North Dakota.

The 125th anniversary celebration included a school tour, fashion show, and parade. It was followed by a horseshoe tournament, tractor pull, and old-time music. Once evening set in, people witnessed an exceptional cavalry reenactment. It was no doubt a day unlike any other.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Menoken, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them well for the future. By honoring Menoken and all other towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering, frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Menoken that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Menoken has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICHIGAN, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 24 through July 27, the residents of Michigan will celebrate their community's history and founding.

Michigan is a small town with a population of 345 residents located in Nelson County in northeastern North Dakota. It was established on January 2, 1883, with the completion of its post office with C.J. Bondurant as postmaster. Soon after its establishment, railroad tracks were completed, and, in March of 1883, the first train reached Michigan. The town quickly became known as a trading center. With the railroads came more people, who built businesses, churches and schools. The settlers began to cultivate the land and raise crops. Agriculture soon became the center of their economy and remains so to this day.

Today, Michigan remains a proud community that has a prosperous economy consisting of farming, manufacturing industries, and retail businesses. Residents of Michigan are known for their honesty, strong work ethic, and living off the land. It is a great place for enjoying the outdoors all year round, including hunting, cross-country skiing, fishing, boating, and camping. Michigan Days is a highlight each summer. During Michigan Days, the residents enjoy live music, a softball tournament, street dances, a tractor pull, and ice cream socials.

As part of the weekend anniversary celebration residents will be able to go to the interesting Dakota Mysteries and Oddities Museum. Michigan will also hold a golf tournament at the Duffers Club and dedicate the Veteran's Memorial Building for all the brave residents of Michigan who have served in past wars. Several other wonderful activities will be taking place throughout the weekend.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Michigan, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Michigan and all the other historic towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Michigan that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this community is deserving of our recognition.

Michigan has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILNOR, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 18-20, the residents of Milnor will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

During the summer of 1863, Henry Hastings Sibley and his army camped on the shore of Storm Lake—Camp Buel—and about 20 years later, in 1883, Milnor was established on that historical site. Milnor was named after William E. Milnor, the first telegrapher at the Milnor Station and WM Milnor Roberts, a famous civil engineer of the

day. In October 1883, Milnor's post office was established, and it became a city in 1914.

Today, Milnor remains a small, proud community. Each year, the community gathers in June for its annual Jamboree. The residents celebrate with a BBQ, golf tournament, street dance, parade and many other fun activities. During the summer, many Milnor residents can be found at the local pool, catching up with friends and family, or at the Lakeview golf course playing a few holes. Two National Wildlife Refuges are located near Milnor, the Tewaikon and Storm Lake Refuges. Many residents enjoy camping, fishing, and spotting wildlife at these beautiful sites. Milnor also has many other outdoor recreational areas located nearby, like Buffalo Lake—Kandiotta Lake—and Dead Colt Creek.

To celebrate the 125th anniversary, the residents of Milnor will gather for many fun and exciting activities, including a parade, a street dance, and a time capsule unveiling.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Milnor, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and wishing them well in the future. By honoring Milnor and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Milnor that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Milnor has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINTO, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 25 to 27, the residents of Minto will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Minto is a community of over 600 residents located in the fertile Red River Valley in northeast North Dakota. The Homestead Act brought the first settlers to the Minto area, including a Canadian by the name of Angus Gillespie, Sr., who left his home in Minto Township, Ontario, to farm in North Dakota. Minto was incorporated in 1883. Twenty years later, Minto was recognized as a city. Minto's links with its Canadian forefathers have been renewed as the town of Minto, ND, became the sister city of Minto, Ontario, in 2007.

The community of Minto is host to many businesses and amenities. There are numerous enterprises dedicated to farming, including elevators, implement dealerships, and trucking services. It also offers its citizens many leisure activities. Residents of the town and the surrounding area are able to enjoy a meal at the town's café and have their hair done at one of the sa-

lons. Families often gather in Minto's beautiful park, which has a baseball field, tennis court, playground, and picnic area. In the winter, the children of Minto can be found skating or playing hockey at the town's outdoor ice rink.

Current and former residents of Minto will gather to celebrate the 125th anniversary. Events will begin with the telling of area Polish family histories at Minto's new community center. The Walsh County Historical Museum will also be open to the public. Minto's park will host a classic car show, magic show, and community baseball game. Each day of celebration will close with a dance.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Minto, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Minto and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places like Minto that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this community is deserving of our recognition.

Minto has a proud past and a bright future.●

NEA'S HONORING OF PAUL MANN

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in early July, when nearly 9,000 educators are in Washington for the National Education Association's annual Representative Assembly, they will posthumously honor one of Iowa's most dedicated and respected teachers, Paul Mann. Lola Mann, Paul's wife of 38 years, will accept the Applegate-Dorros Award on behalf of her late husband at NEA's annual Human and Civil Rights Awards Dinner on July 2.

The Applegate-Dorros Award is given each year to an individual who has made lasting contributions to the cause of international understanding, and who has encouraged young people to study the world and work for world peace. Over a long and distinguished career spanning nearly four decades as a teacher with the Des Moines public school system, Paul both lived and taught those ideals. He shaped the thinking of generations of students, and he was active on the national stage as a long-time leader of NEA's Midwest Peace and Justice Caucus.

I do not believe that democracy is a spectator sport, and neither did Paul. As his wife Lola said, "he felt strongly that he was placed on this earth for a purpose . . . that he was here to help make the world a better place." He challenged his colleagues and students alike to get involved in campaigns and in the broader political process. His own passion for politics and engagement was infectious.

Paul stood up for social justice and the peaceful resolution of conflict. Just as Gandhi counseled that "You must be the change you wish to see in the world," Paul lived a life that embodied the progressive ideals that he advocated.

Paul Mann was born in Onawa, IA on March 12, 1947, graduated from Central Missouri State University in 1969, and earned a master's in public administration from Drake University in 1981. He began teaching in Des Moines in 1969 and was an energetic, beloved teacher right up until his sudden passing in September of 2006. At the time of his death, he was a teacher of world civilization and government at Central Academy, the magnet school for Des Moines' gifted and talented middle- and high-school students.

As a teacher, Paul was a consummate professional who had a deep personal commitment to ensuring that every child receives a high-quality public education. This commitment led to his activism and leadership within the Des Moines Education Association, including 8 years as president. He served in a various leadership positions at the local, State and national levels within the National Education Association. He was also active in local and State politics.

I have always appreciated what Lee Iacocca said about teachers. "In a completely rational society," he said, "the best of us would be teachers, and the rest of us would have to settle for something else." Fortunately, in Iowa, so many of our best and brightest do go into teaching. And Paul Mann was one of the very finest.

To honor his activism in the cause of world peace and understanding, the Paul Mann Memorial School has been established in Chiapas, Mexico. In addition, he has another living legacy: countless former students who are living the noble ideals that he taught in his classroom and embodied in his life.

Paul Mann lived a life of constant activism and thoughtful action both in and out of the classroom. His life is one worthy of recognition and I commend his family and all of his former colleagues for doing their part in honoring him with the Applegate-Dorros Award.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF IPSWICH, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I recognize the community of Ipswich, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. As the county seat of Edmunds County, the rural community of Ipswich is infused with hospitality, beauty, and an exceptional quality of life.

The town of Ipswich was founded in 1883, with the railroad industry jumpstarting the area as a business and transportation center. Ipswich was noted for its many buildings made of native prairie stone, and was eventually given the nicknames: "the Home of the Yellowstone Trail," "the Arch City," and "the Zinnia City."

Today, Ipswich has come a long way from its days as a railroad supply center. The town now boasts a variety of businesses, including those in the service, manufacturing, and agricultural